

CONNECTIONS

The Official Newsletter of the Pine Ridge Estates Homeowners Association



Be sure to “Like” the Pine Ridge Estates HOA page on Facebook for all of the latest updates and information. It’s the quickest and easiest way to stay in the know!



Ready for Spring?

We sure are! We hope everyone fared well through the colder months. The winter storms took their toll on our trees – and our patience! – but now we look forward to higher temperatures, new growth, and new adventures!

There’s a lot going on in our city and community lately, and we’re doing our best to keep you – our PRE homeowners –

informed. We’ve packed as much helpful information as possible into the pages that follow, AND – maybe you’ve heard – we’re on Facebook now! For those of you on Facebook, have you “liked” our page yet? We’ll be posting on topics from Pine Ridge Estates event information, to fun pics from around the neighborhood, to local news stories that we think might interest you. Stay connected – don’t miss out – “like” our page today!

We’ve also been busy evaluating various community improvement opportunities. In areas such as irrigation, landscaping, and maintenance of common areas, our goal is to invest in the areas of greatest need and greatest return. We’ll be sure to keep you informed as these plans evolve.

In the meantime, we hope you find the enclosed information useful. And we hope you’ll engage with us – help us identify the needs and solutions for our community; and engage with your neighbors – keep the lines of communication open and help keep our community strong!



LOOK INSIDE!

WATERING TIPS!

COVENANTS CORNER!

CITY EVENTS!

HELPFUL PHONE #S!

ENERGY SAVING TIPS!

Dates to Remember!

Assessments
Due
4/1

Pool
Opens
5/16

Summer
Party
6/28

Be WATER WISE in 2014!



A little means a lot! Use a rain gauge to measure how much you're watering. Overwatering does more than deplete the water supply; it also makes plants prone to pests & adds to runoff, which pollutes our water systems. By watering efficiently, you reduce water bills, insect & disease problems, and maintenance requirements. For example, the more you water your lawn, the faster it grows and the more it needs to be mowed. In general, turf grasses need about **3/4" to 1"** of water per week to maintain green color and active growth.

Get to the root of the issue! When you do water, make sure it is a thorough watering so that moisture soaks down to the roots. Exceptions to this rule would be for newly seeded lawns where the surface needs to stay moist or on newly sodded lawns that have not yet rooted into the soil. Otherwise, avoid frequent watering that promotes a shallow root system and weed growth.

Morning, evening, but never at noon! You can water in the morning, but it is best to water in the evening because the amount of evaporation that takes place is reduced allowing more water to reach the root zone. Avoid midday watering due to excessive evaporation (and because city drought restrictions forbid it from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.).



Maintain the green! To help conserve water, mow your lawn at a higher than normal height, avoid applying an excess of fertilizer as warm weather approaches, limit traffic over the lawn and avoid pesticide use on drought stressed lawns. To reduce the possibility of having fertilizer wash into our water system, don't water heavily soon after fertilizing. Use light waterings to give the fertilizer the opportunity to be absorbed by the soil. Also, if heavy rains are in the forecast, hold off fertilizing until the heavy rains have passed.

Rainfall makes it easy! Don't water the lawn if rains are expected soon. Think of it as a freebie from Mother Nature that will save you money on your water bill. And remember, if your lawn doesn't get that 1" of water in a given week, it's not going to die. Grass is tougher than you think!

Be aware! McKinney is currently under Stage 3 watering restrictions, meaning that you can only water once a week on your trash day (Tuesday for Pine Ridge Estates). Be careful...violation of this rule can result in a hefty fine added to your water bill...and the city (NOT the HOA) does patrol for violators! There is a possibility of McKinney going to Stage 4 restrictions this summer. This could mean that watering lawns will either not be allowed or limited even more than under Stage 3 restrictions. Get your lawn "trained" now by watering smart. Remember, it's not how much you water, but how effectively you water on an infrequent basis. **The Pine Ridge Estates Facebook page** will alert residents if watering restrictions change from Stage 3 to Stage 4. Make sure and "like" us if you haven't already done so.

Helpful Tid Bits

Street Light Out?

www.coserv.com
Click on "Contact Us"
and select the
Street Outage Form

City Sidewalk Repair?

972-547-7350
(for the portion that runs
parallel to the curb)

Need to Check Your HOA Acct or Register for SBB Emails?

[http://www.
sbbmanagement.com/](http://www.sbbmanagement.com/)
(have your account
number handy!)

NON-Emergency #s
Police: 972-547-2700
Fire: 972-547-2850

McKinney Website: www.mckinneytx.org

- For updates/info on
- Construction Info
 - Recycling/Trash
 - Hazardous Waste
 - City Ordinance
 - Parks & Rec Info
and more!

Around Town

Looking for something fun or different to do around town? There's no shortage of options in McKinney!

Nature!

Guided Bird Walks – Heard Museum; Every 2nd Saturday through May.
Education Village Exhibit – Heard Museum; through May 31st.

www.heardmuseum.org

Erwin Park – 4300 CR 1006, McKinney; biking, fishing, picnic pavilions, camping & more; 972-547-2690 to reserve.

www.mckinneytexas.org

Shopping!

Third Monday Trade Days – 4550 W. University Dr., McKinney; oldest/largest monthly flea market in North TX! Fri – Sun before the 3rd Monday of each month, 8am-5pm.

www.tmtd.com

Arts & Entertainment!

Arts in Bloom 2014 – Historic Downtown McKinney; more than 150 local & regional artists; Saturday, April 12, 10am-6pm.

Second Saturdays – Historic Downtown McKinney; an evening of art, music, food, and spirits.

www.mckinneytexas.org

Fitness!

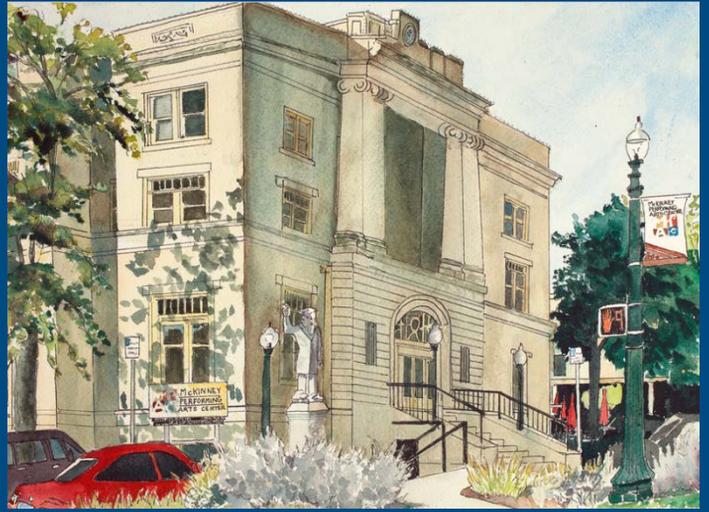
Fight Back 5K – StoneBridge United Methodist Church; benefiting the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life of McKinney; March 22, 2014, 8am.

www.getmerged.com

Bike the Bricks – Historic Downtown McKinney; races, prizes, food/drink/fun for spectators; May 23, 4pm-11pm.

www.bikethebricks.com

CHECK WEBSITES FOR PRICING & DETAILS!



“Throckmorton at MPAC”, by Elaine Adams
www.theartclubmckinney.com

COVENANTS CORNER

Time for a new fence or roof? Maybe a new paint color outside or on the door? Or maybe you've decided to invest in some additions – a shed, or a basketball goal?

Be sure to get your plans approved first!

We love to see investments being made into the value of our community's homes. Keep in mind: The Pine Ridge Estates HOA's Architectural Control Committee (ACC) is in place to ensure architectural integrity and consistent aesthetics in the community, and they must review and approve all plans before the work begins.

The “Convents, Conditions, and Restrictions” document, the “Design Guidelines” document, and the ACC Request Form are all found in the “Forms and Downloads” section of the Pine Ridge Estates website: www.pineridgehoa.org.



Energy Saving Tips

Our warmest months will be here before you know it! And along with those higher temperatures comes higher energy bills. Here are a few tips from CoServ for conserving energy:

- **Put your blinds and curtains to work.** In summer, shut them during the hottest part of the day. In winter, open them to let the heat in (only if the window faces south, east or west).
- **Check for leaks around windows, doors and ductwork.** If you find any, add caulking, weather stripping or insulation (respectively).
- **Replace furnace filters every 30 days** during the heating season. You won't forget if you use your monthly gas bill as a reminder.
- **Keep exterior doors and windows completely shut** when running your HVAC unit. Most interior doors should stay open to maximize air flow.
- **Befriend the toaster oven.** It's a smart choice for small meals and snacks. Why? These miniature ovens use as much as 50 percent less energy than the full-sized versions.
- **Circulate air with fans.** It's much less expensive to move air around than to cool or heat it. In summer, spin the fan counter-clockwise. In winter, spin it clockwise. (Most fans have a switch at the top to change the direction of the blades.)
- **Turn off fans when you leave the room.** Remember, fans don't literally cool or heat a room. They only circulate air. So, when no one is there to appreciate it, fans waste energy.



Every little bit counts! For more helpful tips, visit the "TOGETHERWESAVE" section of CoServ's website: www.coserv.com.

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